



King County

5<sup>TH</sup>

DISTRICT

## NEWS



DWIGHT PELZ

A REPORT FROM KING COUNTY COUNCILMEMBER DWIGHT PELZ

February 2002

My Priorities: Livable  
Neighborhoods, Trans-  
portation and Transit

## Livable Neighborhoods

We all have the right to live in attractive neighborhoods. Nothing angers me more than neighbors who store junk cars on their property, or who allow garbage to pile up. I have worked hard to crack down on **code violations** in unincorporated King County. Partnering with neighborhood groups, we developed the "Dirty-Dozen" concept and committees to identify and solve code violations, and to get the County to clean them up quickly.

One County program I created is a work crew that lends its muscle to various clean-up projects within the 5<sup>th</sup> district. They can assist in activities ranging from park maintenance projects to picking up illegally dumped trash from the streets. ***If you know of a project in your neighborhood that could benefit from the work crew, please give my office a call at 206-296-1005.***

Two other aspects of livable communities I have been active on are open space and airport noise. In the last five years, I secured funding for parks and open space throughout the 5<sup>th</sup> district, and fought to have the

*continued back page*

## Your County Councilmember Dwight Pelz

My name is Dwight Pelz. I represent the 5<sup>th</sup> District on the King County Council, which includes parts of Seattle, Renton, and Tukwila. Recently a new County Council district map has been drawn, and today I am

excited to represent neighborhoods in Renton, Fairwood, and Kent. ***I will now be your representative on the County Council.*** I take this duty very seriously and look forward to getting to know you and your concerns.

Let me introduce myself. I have worked in public service in King County for more than 25 years. In 1977 I organized the campaign which repealed the sales tax on food. I worked as a community organizer on consumer issues through the '80's, and was elected to the State Senate in 1990. As a Senator for 6 years I wrote the Education Reform Act and passed legislation to increase funding for our public schools. In 1997, I was appointed to the



Councilmember Dwight Pelz with his wife and two children.

King County Council and- I was re-elected in 1997 and 2001. I was born in Seattle fifty years ago. I have two children in college, and my wife teaches in the Seattle school district. My family has been in Washington for over 100 years.



***I have worked in public service for over 25 years, with the aim of making our neighborhoods the best they can be.***

# 5<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT NEWS

Dwight Pelz, Councilmember  
Metropolitan King County Council, District Five  
Room 1200, King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104-3272

206-296-1005  
dwight.pelz@metrokc.gov  
www.metrokc.gov/mkcc/members/d5

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
SEATTLE, WA  
PERMIT NO. 1788



**Councilmember Dwight Pelz and a work crew gather after a recent day of clean-up projects in District Five.**

## Livable Neighborhoods continued

hours increased at an area community center. I publicly and actively opposed the Port of Seattle's Split Turn proposal, and advocated to provide real, attainable, and meaningful relief to communities.

## Transportation and Transit

When I-695 cut Metro Transit funding by \$100 million annually, I led the campaign to the Legislature to allow the voters to restore those lost funds. As a member of the Transportation Committee, I helped numerous citizens improve service to their neighborhood routes. ***If you have any thoughts about how Metro can improve service in your area, please call or e-mail me at dwight.pelz@metrokc.gov.***

We need to invest billions in our roads. As an elected official, I publicly recognized that we need to raise taxes to fund vital investments in I-5, I-405, SR 167, SR 520, and the Alaskan Way Viaduct. As a new member of the Sound Transit Board, I will work hard for light rail, commuter rail, and more express bus service.

## Challenges Facing King County

King County's budget will shrink in the years ahead. We cut \$39 million in spending for 2002. Estimates for next year show a \$45 million shortfall, which means tough cuts are inevitable. ***Funding for the criminal justice system is my highest priority*** – for the Sheriff, Prosecutor, Superior Court, District Courts, Public Defender, and the two King County jails. The County's budget shortfall will result in dramatic reductions to funding for the arts, parks, and human services. We will be faced with very difficult decisions concerning how we spend our shrinking resources.

I am your voice in County Government. Assisting me are Helen Chatalas, Chris Arkills, and Kathy Chinn. Please do not hesitate to let us know how we can help you in making our neighborhoods the best they can be.